

Gleaning from Naomi and Ruth

What does the name Ruth mean? _____

What does Naomi mean? _____ Mara? _____

Why did Naomi ask to be called that? _____

Better, not Bitter

When disaster or just dire circumstances strike, how might God's Word help us turn better rather than bitter? Here are some passages to help:

Jeremiah 29:11	What does God give those who trust Him?
Romans 8:28	How might things work out?
Ephesians 5:20	Can you be bitter and thankful at the same time?
I Thessalonians 5:17	Can you pray even through tears and anger?
2 Corinthians 1:4	Could bad circumstances be preparing you God's work?
Ruth 2:12	How did Boaz see God's provision of refuge for Ruth?

Ruth and Naomi's message for your life today

According to Titus 2:3-5, we must always be learning from "older women". We can learn from our biblical examples and from the women God has put in our lives. Elizabeth George has a list of some messages we learn from Naomi and Ruth. Discuss these.

- Things change...but God doesn't (Hebrews 13:8)
- Suffering is a "given" in life (John 16:33)
- God works in your life through people, events, circumstances, and even "happenstances"!
- When suffering comes, seek and plan to respond in a godly, faith-filled way, in the strength of the Lord. (Isaiah 41:10)
- Believe in the promises of God and draw upon their truth and comfort.

Much of this study was "gleaned" from Elizabeth George's book "The Remarkable Women of the Bible."

Memory Verse: "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (I John 3:18 NIV).